



Nevada Irrigation District

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October 8, 1996

IN REPLYING REFER
TO FILE NO.

OCT 10 1996

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director
Cal Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Lester:

RE: CAL FED ASSURANCES WORK GROUP

I take this opportunity to bring to your attention observations I have in regards to the recent meetings of the Cal Fed Assurance Work Group.

The Assurance Work Group meeting of October 2, appeared to me to become a rehash of the first meeting and did not provide a significant direction for defining the potential assurances that the participants of the Delta fix are expecting.

Staff's request to provide the tools and methods needed to implement the long-term solution seems to be premature. As the process stands today, it is almost impossible to identify tools and methods for a solution when it is undetermined as to the direction needed to reach a solution. (I would liken this to bringing tools to do a job - without knowing what the job entails. Do I bring a hammer or paint brush, or do I need a saw or drill to accomplish the task to reach a solution). The task must be defined before the tools and methods can be provided.

I am suggesting that the selection of the preferred alternative be identified, and then the process of the assurance work group as well as the other BDAC work groups will have a much better defined process for providing direction(s) to the BDAC. Some might think this is putting the cart before the horse, but it only stands to reason to know the direction to hook the horse to the cart and start the correct path.

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Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director
October 8, 1996
Page 2

A second thought that will have a bearing on the Cal Fed process is the SWRCB proposed hearings for water rights to meet adopted standards for the Delta, which I bring to your attention in the following paragraphs. (These thoughts were written before the October 2 Assurance Work Group meeting.)

As you may be aware, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is proceeding forth with its plans to begin a water rights hearing in 1997. This hearing is to determine the quantities of water that may be required of a rights holder to fulfill their contribution towards meeting water quality standards adopted in May 1995 by the SWRCB. Many of the 5,000+ rights holders will be subject to a demand upon their limited water supplies required to meet area of origin and locally defined service areas.

As Cal Fed continues to seek a solution to the Bay-Delta ecosystem, and specifically the Assurance Work Group, it must be recognized that a demand by the SWRCB upon these limited supplies will greatly increase the need that rights holders have an assurance that Cal Fed will assist in allowing for additional water storage in the areas of origin to replace these demands.

Upstream tributary water rights holders are generally not opposed to the program of fixing the Delta; however, the specifics of not allowing in-stream storage as so stated in the three alternatives could jeopardize the socioeconomic well being of the upstream areas of origin.

Measures are necessary (once the preferred alternative has been selected and the DEIS/EIR began) as we discuss assurances to make allowances to replace/replenish the acre feet of water that may be required to meet the May 1995 quality standards.

It's extremely important that the Cal Fed alternative selected also incorporates protection for the areas of origin, county of origin, and watershed management areas to be able to generate and store additional water supplies.

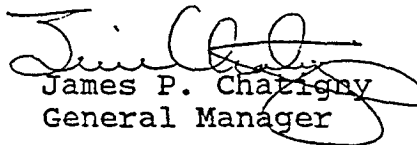
The Assurance Workshop can play a major role in seeing that the areas of origin, when required to provide water to the Delta, will be able to continue to provide protection for 'public trust' needs in these local areas. This can be accomplished through early planning for watershed management, some conjunctive uses, and the impoundment of additional flows generated through management practices.

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director
October 8, 1996
Page 3

If you would agree, I would be most appreciative to meet and discuss some of these matters with you. I would like Chris Williams, Executive Director of Mountain Counties Water Resources Association to be in attendance also. MCWRA has a definite concern in the water rights protection as well as area of origin.

Thank you for your review and consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,


James P. Chatigny
General Manager

JPC:sf

Enclosure

cc: Jeffrey Meith, Attorney at Law